



## National Agricultural Statistics Service, Pennsylvania Field Office

2301 North Cameron Street, Room G-19

Harrisburg, PA 17110-9405

Marc Tosiano, Director

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717-787-3904

Fax: 717-782-4011

nass-pa@nass.usda.gov

www.nass.usda.gov

# Weekly Crop & Weather Roundup



Week Ending July 30, 2006

Issued weekly, April-November

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*This report can be found on the Internet at*

[http://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics\\_by\\_State/Pennsylvania/Publications/Crop\\_Progress\\_and\\_Condition/index.asp](http://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics_by_State/Pennsylvania/Publications/Crop_Progress_and_Condition/index.asp)

**Good Week for Field Work:** Pennsylvania had another hot and muggy week, with no relief in sight. Temperatures last week were in the 90s in some parts of the state, with brief thunderstorms giving the only break from the heat. These conditions were favorable for the summer crops, as several crop conditions improved last week. However, it proved to be a little difficult to get some hay made, due to the scattered storms. Farmers continued to wrap up wheat and barley harvests. Producers are just waiting for a few rain-free days to really push grain and hay harvesting. Fruit and vegetable production is well underway. So far this season, growers are reporting that the produce is of excellent quality. Principal farm activities included baling hay and straw; repairing equipment; harvesting wheat, barley, and oats; picking peaches, apples, sweet corn, and other small fruits and vegetables; and spreading manure.

### PA Topsoil Moisture for Week Ending July 30, 2006

Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
0	7	69	24

**Crops:** Farmers are hoping for excellent corn yields this year. Corn continues to do well, now in the silk and dough stages. Seventy-five percent of the corn is silking, compared with 76 percent last year and 63 percent for the 5-year average. In addition, 16 percent of the corn is in the dough stage, which is only 1 percent behind normal. The corn continues to do well, as 83 percent of the crop is rated in either good or excellent condition. Similar to corn, 81 percent of the soybeans are in good or excellent condition. This figure declined 3 percentage points from the previous week. In comparison with last year, oat progress is behind. Eighty-three percent of the crop has turned yellow, which is 3 percent behind last year but 3 percent ahead of the average. Forty-two percent of the crop is ripe and 24 percent has been harvested. Unlike the previous week, both figures from last week are behind the 5-year average. Oat condition has slightly declined from the preceding week. Seventy-eight percent of the acreage is reported to be in good or excellent condition, 19 percent is fair, and 3 percent is in poor condition. Hopefully with this week's predicted sunshine, condition will improve again as farmers continue harvesting. Currently, farmers have 85 percent of their second cutting and 23 percent of their third cutting alfalfa made. Second cutting is 5 percent ahead of the 5-year average, but third cutting is 8 percent behind the average. First cutting timothy is wrapping up, as farmers have 98 percent of their hay made. This figure is right between last year's figure of 100 percent and the average of 96 percent. Already, 36 percent of the second cutting has been made, which is 6 percent ahead of the 5-year average. Timothy/clover stand condition has worsened from the previous week. Fifty-eight percent of the timothy is in good or excellent condition, 34 percent is rated as fair, and the remaining 8 percent is in poor condition. The quality of hay made has slightly declined from the previous week as well, with last week's conditions reported as 2 percent very poor, 6 percent poor, 34 percent fair, 46 percent good, and 12 percent excellent.

Peach harvesting continues to lag the normal pace. Producers have 27 percent of their peaches harvested, compared to 33 percent last year and 36 percent for the 5-year average. However, apple harvesting is 1 percent ahead of the average as 10 percent of the apples are harvested. Producers are claiming that early variety yields are not as high as expected, but quality is better than anticipated. Peach condition drastically improved from the previous week, as 96 percent of the crop is in good or excellent condition. However, apple condition declined slightly. Currently, 89 percent of the apples are in either good or excellent condition.

**Livestock:** Pasture condition has improved this week, for the first time in several weeks. Some farmers report concerns with heat-stressed cows, claiming that production is decreasing as a result of the heat. Pasture condition was reported as the following: 1 percent very poor, 8 percent poor, 27 percent fair, 47 percent good, and 17 percent excellent.

**U.S. as of July 25, 2006:** Above-normal temperatures again prevailed nearly nationwide, with maximums exceeding 100 degrees Fahrenheit across much of the Mississippi Delta. The hot weather was favorable for summer crop development, particularly in the Corn Belt. Meanwhile, showers in the Corn Belt held soil moisture to adequate levels, boosting crop conditions in most areas. Weekend showers across the Mississippi Delta and Southeast provided little relief from dry conditions.

**Corn:** Acreage at or beyond the silk stage advanced to 78 percent, 3 percentage points ahead of last year and 15 points ahead of normal. Silking progressed rapidly in the Corn Belt under warm, moist conditions. Development was particularly rapid in the northern and eastern Great Plains. Silking was ahead of normal in all states. Meanwhile, 13 percent of the crop was at or beyond the dough stage, compared with 14 percent last year and 12 percent for the 5-year average. Doughing was underway everywhere except in the northern Corn Belt.

**Soybeans:** Blooming advanced to 76 percent, 3 points behind last year but 9 points ahead of the 5-year average. Acreage blooming exceeded the normal pace in all states, except Indiana. Thirty-two percent of the acreage had begun setting pods, 1 point behind last year but 8 points ahead of normal. Crop condition declined in most areas due to hot, dry weather but improved slightly in the central and northern Corn Belt, where rainfall maintained adequate soil moisture levels.

**Winter Wheat:** Producers had reaped 86 percent of their crop, compared with 82 percent last year and 81 percent for the normal. Harvest was complete across the southern Great Plains and nearly complete in the central Corn Belt. Progress was ahead of normal in most states, including Pennsylvania, where harvest is almost complete.

**Small Grains:** Ninety-four percent of the barley crop was at or beyond the heading stage, 1 point behind last year but the same as the 5-year average.

The oat harvest advanced to 33 percent complete, 5 points ahead of last year and 9 points ahead of normal. Growers were at or ahead of the normal harvest pace in all states, except Ohio.

# Weather Data For Week Ending July 30, 2006

Station	Last Week Weather Summary						April 1 - July 30, 2006					
	Temperature				Precipitation		Precipitation			GDD Base 50F		Base 40F
	High	Low	Average	DFN	Total	Days	Total	DFN	Days	Total	DFN	Total
<b>Northwest</b>												
Erie	88	61	76	5	1.18	5	12.99	-1.10	55	1,590	188	2,671
Franklin	88	56	75	5	1.30	5	20.39	3.72	58	1,504	167	2,626
Meadville	84	60	74	6	3.40	3	18.15	2.21	53	1,485	266	2,580
Mercer	87	56	73	4	1.24	4	21.61	5.79	58	1,420	95	2,530
Springboro	85	57	73	2	2.97	4	22.32	8.20	58	1,326	-82	2,384
Warren	86	55	73	3	3.94	6	23.91	7.51	58	1,385	86	2,472
<b>North Central</b>												
Bradford Region	82	46	69	4	2.50	5	17.76	1.11	59	1,119	174	2,145
Emporium	85	56	72	5	1.15	3	21.63	4.65	58	1,418	361	2,542
Kane	83	46	68	3	2.53	5	18.68	1.97	51	1,013	81	2,031
Laporte	82	55	70	0	1.80	3	24.05	8.44	62	1,244	-95	2,311
Lock Haven	88	59	74	4	2.06	2	19.12	3.90	52	1,646	226	2,801
Port Allegany	84	52	71	5	2.43	5	17.26	1.30	53	1,205	151	2,256
Renovo	88	48	71	-1	1.35	3	18.26	3.04	59	1,518	98	2,666
Ridgway	84	53	71	4	1.75	4	19.54	2.56	59	1,212	155	2,289
Stevenson Dam	88	56	73	7	1.18	3	16.13	-0.85	52	1,500	443	2,642
Towanda	90	56	74	4	1.57	3	16.77	3.83	54	1,541	191	2,650
Wellsboro	84	51	69	3	0.94	3	15.86	2.78	54	1,192	194	2,242
Williamsport	89	60	76	4	0.56	2	15.91	0.64	51	1,777	200	2,932
<b>Northeast</b>												
Hawley	87	53	72	4	0.19	2	24.85	10.34	45	1,355	217	2,427
Wilkes-Barre/Sc	89	56	74	3	0.15	2	17.34	3.06	51	1,650	152	2,783
Susquehanna	87	55	73	6	0.38	2	23.92	8.38	60	1,410	317	2,497
<b>West Central</b>												
Butler	86	56	74	4	0.39	3	17.59	1.96	55	1,465	76	2,598
New Castle	89	57	76	6	0.56	4	19.53	5.07	54	1,633	235	2,777
Slippery Rock	89	57	74	6	0.25	4	20.84	5.54	62	1,522	264	2,655
<b>Central</b>												
Altoona/Blair	85	55	73	2	0.63	3	14.40	0.18	50	1,574	71	2,723
DuBois	82	52	71	2	1.58	5	18.72	2.99	64	1,365	68	2,465
Lewistown	89	59	76	3	0.92	3	17.46	2.13	49	1,739	91	2,902
Middletown	91	64	79	4	1.42	3	19.07	4.24	44	2,074	212	3,254
Prince Gallitzi	85	50	71	3	0.99	3	18.02	-0.10	51	1,288	101	2,386
Selinsgrove	90	60	76	4	1.65	2	21.18	5.91	50	1,709	170	2,864
State College	87	60	75	4	0.72	3	13.45	-0.64	49	1,699	214	2,859
<b>East Central</b>												
Allentown-Bethel	90	59	76	3	0.65	2	21.94	6.47	51	1,877	173	3,041
Lehighton	87	58	74	1	0.44	2	21.17	5.64	57	1,685	48	2,830
Matamoras	88	55	73	1	0.90	2	19.31	3.07	55	1,481	1	2,586
Mt_Pocono	85	52	72	5	0.87	2	24.60	7.66	59	1,332	339	2,411
<b>Southwest</b>												
Pittsburgh/Alle	86	59	75	4	0.84	2	14.64	-0.39	53	1,769	259	2,938
Derry	84	56	72	2	1.35	3	19.50	4.06	52	1,481	73	2,618
Myersdale	83	51	69	-2	0.24	3	17.92	0.81	60	1,103	-267	2,170
Mount Pleasant	86	54	72	4	0.79	3	16.54	-0.71	53	1,459	214	2,591
Pittsburgh Intl	86	57	74	3	0.06	1	14.08	-0.01	49	1,707	125	2,864
Connellsville	88	58	75	3	0.19	2	16.71	0.03	62	1,692	78	2,848
Waynesburg	86	56	73	3	0.13	1	13.97	-1.37	49	1,531	74	2,681
<b>South Central</b>												
Biglerville	90	60	77	2	0.64	2	19.69	6.08	51	1,872	43	3,049
Everett	86	55	71	-1	0.06	3	14.56	0.83	55	1,250	-223	2,397
Hanover	91	57	76	1	0.49	2	15.60	1.99	48	1,861	32	3,032
Harrisburg_AP	90	63	78	3	1.69	3	18.44	3.61	49	2,021	152	3,201
South Mountain	84	55	72	1	0.36	2	22.91	8.69	53	1,455	-41	2,592
York	93	56	77	3	0.00	0	12.83	-2.27	46	1,846	24	3,011
<b>Southeast</b>												
Green Lane	90	60	77	4	0.91	2	24.04	8.88	50	1,907	285	3,075
Hamburg	91	61	77	6	1.01	2	22.09	4.02	56	1,949	477	3,115
West_Chester	92	58	77	2	1.63	2	20.71	3.77	44	1,794	-15	2,956
Lancaster	90	61	77	3	0.45	3	23.82	8.07	53	1,939	231	3,113
Neshaminy Falls	92	60	77	4	1.90	2	22.04	4.35	47	1,808	112	2,978
New Holland	92	63	78	4	0.87	2	17.54	1.79	51	1,958	250	3,128
Philadelphia	94	66	80	3	0.80	2	18.07	2.81	41	2,273	310	3,470
Philadelphia NE	93	64	80	3	2.31	2	20.29	5.03	47	2,253	290	3,445
Reading	91	61	78	4	0.59	2	18.93	2.25	47	2,006	333	3,177
Valley Forge Na	92	58	78	2	2.04	3	23.88	8.04	49	1,951	34	3,123
Willow Grove	91	63	78	5	1.39	2	17.40	-0.29	43	2,043	347	3,225

DFN = Departure from normal (using 1961-90 normals period).

Precipitation (rainfall or melted snow or ice) and pan evaporation in inches.

Precipitation days = days with precipitation of .01 inch or more.

Air temperatures in degrees fahrenheit.

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# Internet Reporters' Comments, By County:

Reporters are from Extension Service (Ext), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Farm Service Agency (FSA), Conservation District (CD), farmers, commodity specialists, or other knowledgeable individuals.

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**ADAMS COUNTY, Judy A. Behney (FSA)** - Adams County received some rainfall this week. Tuesday evening some parts of the county received rain. Thursday late afternoon into the night we received several strong thunderstorms with wind, rain, and some hail in the York Springs area. Rainfall in some areas was at least 2", but others didn't receive as much.

Corn and soybeans continue to look good. Most corn is over 6' tall and soybeans are getting pretty good height now. Oats are being harvested and some mixed hay 2nd cutting is being made.

Apples and peaches continue to progress into a nice crop. Peaches are being harvested and early apple varieties are also being harvested. Sweet corn is being picked along with some other vegetable crops.

Overall the crops in Adams County look good but these fierce storms can change status of crops real quick.

**ADAMS COUNTY, Thomas Kerr** - Spotty showers this week and humid weather slowed hay making, but it is looking like a very good corn and soybean year. The livestock started showing the stress of the hot and humid weather, with production dropping off this week. Freestone peaches are being harvested as well as early apples. Yield is not as great as expected, but quality is excellent.

**BUCKS COUNTY, Darrell Tribue (FSA)** - Persistent heavy downpours have made weed control in soybeans difficult. Also, hay harvesting has been slowed. The downpours are aggravating field erosion problems caused by the flooding of this spring.

**CAMBRIA COUNTY, Dolly Little (FSA)** - Hay harvesting continues while harvesting the oats is just beginning. Sweet corn is just coming on. The potato crop is looking good, and we are expecting an excellent crop.

**CENTRE COUNTY, Dick Decker** - Showers several days with a total of 7/8" in the gage. Baling straw and harvesting green beans were the key activities for the week.

**COLUMBIA COUNTY, Dan McCarty (AgChoice)** - We have some pest problems with soybeans. There is heat forecasted for the coming week.

**CRAWFORD COUNTY, Ron McCorkle (NRCS)** - Rain again this week slowed hay making progress. The corn looks great on well drained soils; but on the poorer drained soils, the corn is yellow with inconsistent heights.

**DAUPHIN COUNTY, Paul H. Craig (EXT)** - Excellent potential for the corn crop. Most fields are past pollination and have initiated grain development. Latter pollinating hybrids are attracting Japanese beetles and corn rootworm adults are feeding on the silks.

**LANCASTER COUNTY, Burell Whitworth Jr. (NRCS)** - The week was hot and humid with some scattered showered thunder storms and high winds. Most crops are looking good.

**MONTGOMERY COUNTY, Andrew Frankenfield (EXT)** - Hot and humid conditions with plenty of rainfall helped the crops grow very well. It was difficult to bale straw and hay because of the frequent thunderstorms every couple days. Most of the corn and soybeans look great. Some beans are starting to lodge because of the heavy rain and wind.

**SCHUYLKILL COUNTY, Terry Stehr (FSA)** - Adequate moisture and plenty of heat appear to have us headed for some bumper grain yields. Fruit and vegetable growers continue to fight diseases prevalent in these growing conditions.

**SNYDER COUNTY, William C. Sheaffer** - The beginning of the week was warm and dry and the end of the week was hot and wet, with rainfall amounts in the range of 0.5 to over 3.0 inches. Some of the corn is showing the effect of too much rain, while other corn is very healthy. The soybeans have a lot of height as the result of the heat and rainfall. The small grains have been harvested, with the yields being above average; however, the wheat was of poor quality as a result of sprouted kernels. The third cutting of Alfalfa is looking good at this point, and the new seedings are being harvested. The main activities for the week were harvesting grain and baling hay and straw.

**TIOGA COUNTY, Pamela Barnes** - All week was hot and humid. It rained on Friday and then again on Saturday night, with about 1.3 inches total. We made some haylage, but had a little trouble with it because of the rain. The corn loves the hot weather. With all the moisture, it should be an excellent crop.

**TIOGA COUNTY, J. Craig Williams (EXT)** - Rain storms came and made field work (Hay Time) hard to complete. Much of the soil in both hay and grain fields is very wet. The corn is tasseling well in some areas.

**WESTMORELAND COUNTY, John Lohr (FSA)** - Another good growing week with the moisture just coming in time towards the end of the week to keep crops from experiencing any dry weather stress. Corn and soybeans continue to look very good.

**PA Crop Progress for Week Ending July 30, 2006**

Crop	Current Week	Last Year	5-Year Average
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Corn, silk	75	76	63
Corn, dough	16	16	17
Oats, turning yellow	83	86	80
Oats, ripe	42	60	55
Oats, harvested	24	32	28
Alfalfa, 2nd cutting	85	96	80
Alfalfa, 3rd cutting	23	44	31
Timothy clover, 1st cutting	98	100	96
Timothy clover, 2nd cutting	36	47	30
Peaches, harvested	27	33	36
Apples, harvested	11	16	10

**PA Crop Condition for Week Ending July 30, 2006**

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Corn	1	3	13	47	36
Oats	0	3	19	69	9
Soybeans	0	2	17	58	23
Timothy clover stand	0	1	37	53	9
Quality of hay made	2	6	34	46	12
Pasture	1	8	27	47	17
Peaches	0	1	3	65	31
Apples	0	0	11	60	29

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